Palazzo Parisani S. Claudio
Sat April 6
1872

My dear Charley

A Roman line from your brother Joe
I am sure will be acceptable to you & yours
although my time is so limited that an ample
letter must be for another occasion

I am now comfortably in my new
life, dolce far niente, the quantity of
events & persons crossing my daily path
rather please me than not, indeed the
active life, just suits my nature, more
so as it gives me much power of doing good
which is always pleasant under any
circumstances

My son Arthur is now with me
having come out with Mr. Newton, who
leaves this tomorrow

The weather has been most wintry
all the time I have been here & all the

public events more so, the city is filled
with french soldiers, every monastery now
turned into a barrack & what dear Rome
is like a fortress town, when it will be
otherwise who can tell?

Four & five of my rooms are occupied
at times by visitors & business going from 10 to 3
& sometimes even at night, but this
extra time will soon finish

I promised to send you all a
photograph of my studio dress & sword
but really I feel so little like myself
when I have it on, that I don't think
any of you would care about it

My painting I hope may begin
next week as I have now pretty well
mastered my business, having had some

difficult cases, & perhaps for these matters I may have a turn, certainly I have a most considerate disposition & very patient nature, both which just now are not a little taxed

I hope some day to have a letter from you, or any, or all your sons, & even your dear wife, which you may send to the Foreign office to H.S. for H. M. B. Consul at Rome

Pardon this short scrawl, but I have a lot of people waiting & am fidgety so good bye & my love to all

Your loving brother Joe

and her faults which were all in Leger with her Virtues — You shall have it some day — the loss is great to me here for I was in want of such a wife — At the great reception of the French Ambassador, she would have presented the English Ladies & the Ambassadress & a kind of active benevolence was open to her

Now I have arranged to let the greater portion of my house which I don't at all want & this will bring me 3/4 of my rent — I am glad to say that I am equal to all my duties, that I continue to have the esteem of the Ministers & I am beloved by the Roman people & even the soldiers!! So that my position is both happy & enviable — When I write to you it seems so odd to think that for me could have had such a fish in store for me after my hard knocking about — I can scarce believe it still — when I open my eyes in the dawn & reflect on the day that I am free to benefit & bless some suffering individual, it seems impossible yet it is true & my mind is so united to it & my memory so ready that I am never at a loss — My love to Maria & to you all — next I will write to her, Your loving Brother Joe